

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

6

DECISION

TOPIC Conservation Easement, Boone County -- Joseph and Janice Reutter

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested to accept the donation of a conservation easement on 75.3 acres in Boone County. This easement shall serve to protect wooded land that is adjacent to DNR managed land that is part of the Saylorville WMA. Joseph and Janice Reutter of Ames, Iowa offer the donation of this easement.

Dan Kinsinger negotiated this easement.

The property is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Boone, Iowa and approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Ledges State Park. The land is a mix of steep rolling timber and timber bluffs overlooking the Des Moines River, open ridge top fields and evergreen tree plantings. There is an identified archaeological site and several Native American burial mounds on the property. The property is part of the original Kate Shelley family farm, thus there is local folklore attached. The property is adjacent to the south edge of the Boone County Landfill.

The Reutters are conservation minded and concluded that they want to protect their land from future development.. The easement will allow for a small building envelope in the southeast corner of the property and will allow the owners to continue to grow and sell Christmas trees on a designated portion just as they have done for the past several years.

The conservation easement will be monitored by Forestry Bureau personnel.

No survey or fencing costs are anticipated. In the event that there is a future need for surveying it would be at the expense of the Department. The cost of a certified real estate appraisal to serve as a basis for the value of the development rights given up by the encumbrance of the conservation easement along with incidental closing costs will also be the responsibility of the Department.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator
Management Services Division
April 12, 2007

